

It is believed the objection to claims 7-9, 12 and 13 as being in improper multiple dependent form has been obviated by the amendments made herein.

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claim 3 has been amended to obviate the rejection. It is thus submitted that the rejection can be properly withdrawn.

Claims 1, 4, 6, 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 over Feldstein (U.S. Patent 4,321,285).

Claims 2, 3 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Feldstein (U.S. Patent 4,321,285).

Claim 3 also was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Feldstein (U.S. Patent 4,321,285) in combination with Giesecke (U.S. Patent 4,568,570).

For the sake of brevity, these three rejections are addressed in combination. Such a combined response is considered appropriate because, *inter alia*, each of the rejection relies on the Feldstein document as a primary reference.

Each of the rejections is traversed.

Feldstein is specifically directed to a particular colloid system. Claims 1 and 2 as amended herein call for a non-colloidal metal activator or catalyst.

Claim 12, 19, 24 and 25 call for oxidizing electrochemically the solution containing the metal activator.

None of the cited documents provide any suggestion of such oxidation.

Claims 23-27 recite that the metal activator comprises one or more of ruthenium, cerium, iron, manganese, rhodium or vanadium.

None of the cited documents suggest use of such materials.

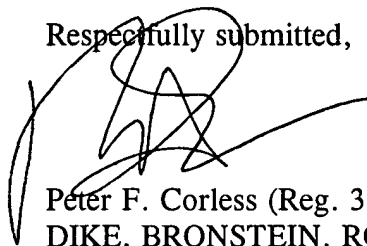
Claims 18-22 call for a metal activator that comprises silver (II).

None of the cited documents suggest such a material. The Giesecke document, which was cited for a report of silver, is specifically directed to silver (I).

In view thereof, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are requested.

It is believed the application is in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Peter F. Corless', written over the typed name.

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